

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
(SSTMD AC) Meeting Summary
January 10, 2008**

1 & 2 Introductions/Agenda Review/Approval of Minutes– Members and guests introduced themselves. **Chairman Jim Polk** pointed that the February meeting will be on the February 14, and not February 12. Minutes for the November and December meetings were reviewed. Corrections were made to the December minutes: **Tom Collins** did not attend the presentation on the County Executive’s Pedestrian Safety Initiative. **Mr. Polk** and **Sgt. Tom Harmon** did attend. No other changes were made, and the minutes for both meetings were approved and seconded with the above changes.

3. Chair’s Comments – **Mr. Polk** asked the group to review the Purple Line Position Paper revisions included in the packets.

There was discussion about how to convey the committee’s recommendations on the Purple Line. **Sande Brecher** stated that it may be best to send the Position Paper to DPWT Director Arthur Holmes with a cover letter, and to request permission to send the recommendations directly to the project manager, or request that Mr. Holmes forward the Position Paper to the project manager (Mike Madden). **Ms. Brecher** said that the County Executive could be copied on the correspondence.

4. Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Control Q&A and Discussion – **Anyesha Mookherjee**, Maryland State Highway Administration, District 3 Engineer’s Office, introduced herself and asked the committee to give her some sense of the issues they are concerned about, as this is her first meeting with this committee. Members and guests introduced themselves once again, for the benefit of **Ms. Mookherjee**.

Mr. Polk noted one of the TMD Advisory Committees ongoing issues is pedestrian safety and noted the County Executive’s Pedestrian Safety Initiative. In view of the many major roads in the County controlled by the State, he asked if anything had “trickled down” to **Ms. Mookherjee’s** level with regard to potential impacts of the pedestrian safety initiatives on State roads. **Ms. Mookherjee** said the State pedestrian/bicycle coordinator would probably have more information in that regard. **Mr. Polk** invited **Ms. Mookherjee** to review the Silver Spring TMD Advisory Committee’s FY 09 Budget Priorities, particularly Item 3 (Pedestrian Safety and Bicycling Initiatives). He asked **Sgt. Harmon** for feedback on what he has observed as well. **Sgt. Harmon** said he meets with several Civic Associations, including the Woodside Park Civic Association, and they have had several questions about changes being studied for the intersection of Dale Drive and Colesville Road. Speed on Dale Drive is an issue. **Sgt. Harmon** stated that about 48% of motorists on Dale Drive exceeded the speed limit in a recent study.

Sgt. Harmon said that SHA has done a technical study of the re-engineering options for the intersection of Forest Glen Road and Georgia Avenue as well. Some people would like to use a red light camera, while still others believe this would not be feasible. The study found that red light cameras actually increased the number of rear end collisions at this intersection (due to speeds), so ultimately the idea of cameras was not considered feasible for this location. **Ms. Mookherjee** clarified that while for a time rear end collisions increase, over time they will taper off to normal range. If Montgomery County said it wanted the red light cameras at this location the State would provide them. She said she was not sure if Civic Associations (or the TMD Advisory Committee) would have the opportunity to formally comment on the action recommended before it is implemented.

Sgt. Harmon said that two other major concerns are the lack of left turn lanes on Georgia Avenue, and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road. A particular concern is the conflict between vehicular movement southbound on Colesville Road making a left onto Georgia Avenue at the same time as pedestrians are trying to cross Georgia Avenue. While there is a dedicated turn arrow, when that arrow ends, motorists have a solid green signal. The crosswalk signals are activated at this point, and large numbers of pedestrians are trying to cross Georgia Avenue. When there is a break in northbound traffic on Colesville, cars attempting to make a left onto Georgia turn fairly quickly. While there haven't been any major pedestrian collisions there, **Sgt. Harmon** believes that there will be in time.

Sgt. Harmon, Larry Cole, Jim Carlson, and others made suggestions regarding how this intersection could be improved to address this problem. Suggestions included a red arrow for left turning autos, double left turn lanes, additional mid-block pedestrian crossings, high-tech pedestrian signals and pavement markers (including LED lights in crosswalks), prohibiting left turns entirely, yellow paddles in intersections, and adding other pedestrian signage. **Mel Tull** asked about putting yellow paddle signs in crosswalks to hopefully slow motorists, but he understands that the State does not use them much. **Ms. Mookherjee** responded that MSHA approves them for low speed roads. **Andy Wexler** asked about LED lights in crosswalks. **Ms. Mookherjee** said there have been pilots of those in this area and they did work to slow traffic and reduce pedestrian collisions. However, there have been problems with operational and maintenance problems which have not been able to be resolved.

Discussion continued, and **Sgt. Harmon** said that ultimately a decision will need to be made about whether the motorists or the pedestrians will get priority. At this point, motorists are getting priority. It is the TMD Advisory Committee's position that pedestrians need to be given priority. Another issue discussed was the short amount of time given to pedestrians to cross the street throughout Montgomery County, but especially on State roads.

5. Purple Line Position Paper – Mr. Polk requested comments from the group by Friday, January 18. He would like to send the position paper out by the end of the month. **Chuck Kines** discussed a planning study being undertaken by M-NCPPC on the Purple Line. This study looks not only at the routes, but also at the land uses.

6. Meeting with County Executive Ike Leggett – The meeting to discuss the FY 09 budget with the County Executive will be at 9:00 pm on February 27. **Jim Carlson** will send electronic copies out to everyone. Since the meeting with the County Executive will have other Silver Spring groups also presenting, **Mr. Polk** would like comments on these priorities as soon as possible. **Sande Brecher** suggested that the first thing to mention are things that the group absolutely does not want cut, especially in light of what may be a very constrained budget.

7. Updates – Sgt. Harmon discussed speed enforcement on Dale Drive, pedestrian enforcement and education. **Sgt. Harmon's** unit conducted 12 pedestrian safety initiatives in 2007. The focus for 2008 will be on enforcement on the major arteries once again.

Jim Carlson discussed proposed changes in Ride On routes, which are being proposed due to budget cuts. He also directed the group to a handout containing more details on the County Executive's Pedestrian Safety Initiative.

Chuck Kines noted that the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee has been reorganized by the County Executive. Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Tom Street is the "big picture

coordinator” for pedestrian safety. The person who would be doing outreach and education (Matt Greene’s old post) is not yet filled. The committee will meet again beginning next Tuesday. Tom Pogue will lead those meetings until they find a chair.

8. Other Committee Business and Around the Room – Ms. Brecher stated that Metro is no longer selling tokens, but they are still accepting them, along with Ride On tokens. Ride On is still selling tokens. WMATA has not determined when they will stop accepting tokens. **Ms. Brecher** also discussed a technical glitch which is being looked at regarding seniors and disabled passengers, who should ride free, but were having their Smart Trip cards charged. For the time being, they should not be using their Smart Trips, but presenting their senior or disabled ID to the driver. Since the County is keeping track of ridership statistics, the driver can still tally the rider using the fare box while this glitch gets resolved.

Mr. Cole said the Planning Board is reviewing the Local Area Transportation Guidelines. One of the staff recommendations is to increase the minimum pedestrian crossing times in urban areas such as Silver Spring. The specifics of how this will be implemented have not been determined.

Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (SSTMD AC)
Attendance Sheet
January 10, 2008

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Ali Mahmood	Chevy Chase Bank		X
James S. Polk, Chairman	Technology Service Corporation	X	
Tom Collins	Atlantech Online	X	
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Edward Furgol	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Charles Segerman, Vice Chairman	North & West Sector Plan Area		X
Andy Wexler	CBD Resident	X	
TMD Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Julian Leidman	Bonanza Coin		X
Suvita Melehy	Melehy & Associates	X	
Cathy Wilde	Solid Waste Assoc of North America	X	
TMD Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
Vacant Position			
Robin Goudy	Social & Scientific Systems	X	
Geoffrey Kreig	Merchant Link		X
Non-Voting Members (4)			
Sandra Brecher, DPWT Transit Services	DPWT Director or Designee	X	
Chuck Kines	M-NCPPC	X	
Sergeant Thomas Harmon	Montgomery County Police	X	
Staff			
Terrie O'Steen	DPWT, Commuter Services		X
David Kantor	DPWT, Commuter Services		X
Jim Carlson	DPWT, Commuter Services	X	
Guests			
Susan Bagwell	Hines GS Properties	X	
Larry Cole	M-NCPPC	X	
Anyesha Mookherjee	MD State Highway Administration	X	
Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Mel Tull	Silver Spring Regional Services Center	X	